



# Our Faith in Action

## Annual Report of the Congregation

*Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received (1 Peter 4:10).*



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

## Dialogue and prayer

Praise the LORD!  
**Praise the LORD, O my soul!**

I will praise the LORD as long as I live;  
**I will sing praises to my God all my life long.**

Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,  
**whose hope is in the LORD their God,**

who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that  
is in them;  
**who keeps faith forever;**

who executes justice for the oppressed;  
**who gives food to the hungry.**

Praise the LORD!  
**Praise the LORD, O my soul!**

(from Psalm 146)

Almighty God,  
your Holy Spirit equips the church  
with a rich variety of gifts.  
Grant that we may use them to bear witness  
to Christ in lives that are built on faith and love.  
Make us ready to live the gospel and eager  
to do your will, so that we may share with  
all your church in the joys of eternal life;  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

(Evangelical Lutheran Worship: Occasional Services, p. 393)

## Scripture reading

**1 Peter 4:10**

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.

## Hymn

### We All Are One in Mission



1 We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,  
2 We all are called for ser - vice, to wit - ness in God's name.  
3 Now let us be u - nit - ed, and let our song be heard.



our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.  
Our min - is - tries are dif - f'rent; our pur - pose is the same:  
Now let us be a ves - sel for God's re - deem - ing Word.



A sin - gle great com - mis - sion com - pels us from a - bove  
to touch the lives of oth - ers with God's sur - pris - ing grace,  
We all are one in mis - sion; we all are one in call,



to plan and work to - geth - er that all may know Christ's love.  
so ev - 'ry folk and na - tion may feel God's warm em - brace.  
our var - ied gifts u - nit - ed by Christ, the Lord of all.

*Keyboard accompaniment is at  
Evangelical Lutheran Worship  
#576, Lutheran Book of Worship  
#339, or With One Voice #755.*

*Scripture quotations are from the  
New Revised Standard Version  
Bible (NRSV).*

*Other possible hymns/songs:  
We Give Thee but Thine Own  
ELW #686  
LBW #410*

*We've Come This Far by Faith  
ELW #633  
TFF #197*

**Saint Andrew Lutheran Church  
Annual Report  
For Year Ending December 31, 2014**

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**2014 CHURCH COUNCIL**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>OFFICE/MINISTRY LIASON</b>	<b>TERM EXPIRES</b>
Mary Wittich	President	January 2016
Mike Williams	Vice-President	January 2015
Bill Best	Christian Education/Youth	January 2016
DeDe Gnatz	Christian Education/Youth	January 2017
Brandon Murphy	Communications/Development	January 2016
Dan Malm	Fellowship	January 2015
Mike Williams	Finance/Stewardship	January 2015
Mary Wittich	Member Outreach	January 2016
Ed Wodolski	Personnel	January 2015
Keith Rusch	Property	January 2017
Russ Van Skike	Social	January 2017
Lenette Hoover	Worship	January 2015

# REPORTS

## **Mission Statement**

*The life and ministry of Saint Andrew Lutheran Church shall be open to all who wish to express their faith in God through Jesus Christ by worship, learning, witness, and service. From this gathering of God's people shall come Christian love as members minister to each other, the community, the nation, and the world. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the life and mission of this church can be fulfilled by those within it. Therefore, we wish to express our love of Jesus Christ through faithful support of, and active participation in, the mission and ministry of Saint Andrew Lutheran Church.*

**SAINT ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH  
BALANCE SHEET  
December 31, 2014**

<u>ASSETS</u>	<u>OPERATING</u>	<u>PROPERTY &amp; EQUIPMENT</u>	<u>DESIGNATED FUNDS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
CURRENT ASSETS				
CASH AND INVESTMENTS	(5,794)		74,591	
Endowment and Seminary Fund (ELCA held)			39,075	107,872
FIXED ASSETS				
LAND AND BUILDING				
CHURCH SITE		171,300		171,300
BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS		3,633,473		3,633,473
VACANT LOTS		0		0
EQUIPMENT				
OFFICE EQUIPMENT		15,000		15,000
FURNITURE AND FIXTURES		135,000		135,000
SUBTOTAL	0	3,954,773	0	3,954,773
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>(5,794)</b>	<b>3,954,773</b>	<b>74,591</b>	<b>4,062,644</b>
<hr/>				
<b><u>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES</u></b>				
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	606			606
TAXES PAYABLE	4,348			4,348
LONG TERM LIABILITIES				
CHURCH SITE AND BUILDING		1,287,851		1,287,851
OFFICE EQUIPMENT LOAN				0
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>4,954</b>	<b>1,287,851</b>		<b>1,292,805</b>
FUND BALANCES				
FUND BALANCE			2,695,248	<b>2,695,248</b>
DESIGNATED FUNDS				
PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND			249	249
SABBATICAL FUNDING			7,600	7,600
CHURCH FUNCTION REIMBURSEMENTS			5,457	5,457
FELLOWSHIP			1,188	1,188
WORLD HUNGER			173	173
FOOD PANTRY			5,317	5,317
MUSIC FUND			235	235
MORTGAGE CAPITAL FUND			8,961	8,961
YOUTH			10,094	10,094
PROPERTY CAPITAL FUND			8,245	8,245
GIFT FUND			16,858	16,858
KITCHEN			77	77
ROSE FUND			37	37
OFFICE EQUIPMENT			0	0
CONTINGENCY FUND			0	0
SEMINARY ENDOWMENT FUND			0	0
EOY CARRY FORWARD			10,100	10,100
<b>TOTAL DESIGNATED FUND BALANCES</b>			<b>74,591</b>	<b>74,591</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES</b>	<b>4,954</b>	<b>1,287,851</b>	<b>74,591</b>	<b>4,062,644</b>

**SAINT ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH  
INCOME STATEMENT  
For the Year ended December 31, 2014**

	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>B/(W) BUDGET</u>	<u>LAST YEAR</u>
<b>OPERATING INCOME</b>				
CONTRIBUTIONS	717,435	748,000	(30,565)	723,046
TRANSFER FROM DESIGNATED FUNDS	0	0	0	34,040
CARRYOVER FROM PRIOR YEARS	0	0	0	0
RENTAL INCOME	2,455	2,000	455	5,255
INVESTMENT INCOME	188		188	0
<b>TOTAL OPERATING INCOME</b>	<b>720,078</b>	<b>750,000</b>	<b>(29,922)</b>	<b>762,342</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>				
OUTREACH MINISTRIES				
REGULAR BENEVOLENCE	41,115	38,530	(2,585)	38,931
EXTENDED MINISTRIES				
WORSHIP	5,381	7,125	1,744	5,197
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	7,331	7,725	394	8,095
MEMBER OUTREACH	1,774	1,600	(174)	1,795
SOCIAL MINISTRY	0	0	0	(224)
FELLOWSHIP	708	500	(208)	10
YOUTH	4,081	4,750	669	4,023
STEWARDSHIP	3,874	4,450	576	4,989
SUPPORT	456,193	473,680	17,487	459,026
PROPERTY CHURCH SITE	15,306	23,600	8,294	23,787
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>535,762</b>	<b>0 561,960</b>	<b>26,198</b>	<b>545,629</b>
CHURCH FIXED EXPENSES(Utilites)	38,787	35,140	(3,647)	40,624
FINANCE EXPENSE	674	900	226	940
TRANSFER TO DESIGNATED FUNDS	2,300	2,000	(300)	5,120
TRANSFER TO 2014 OPERATING BUDGET	0	0	0	7,500
MORTGAGE EXPENSE	150,000	150,000	0	168,000
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>727,523</b>	<b>750,000</b>	<b>22,477</b>	<b>767,814</b>
<b>EXCESS OPERATING INCOME/(EXPENSE)</b>	<b>(7,445)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(7,445)</b>	<b>(5,472)</b>

<b>DESIGNATED FUNDS BEG BALANCE:</b>	<b>52,641</b>	<b>141,329</b>
TOTAL DESIGNATED FUND CONTRIBUTIONS		
FREED FOR MISSION DEBT REDUCTION	54,039	46,175
OTHER FUNDS	94,517	53,083
<b>TOTAL DESIGNATED FUND CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>148,556</b>	<b>99,258</b>
DESIGNATED FUND EXPENSES		
FREED FOR MISSION DEBT REDUCTION	53,990	44,411
OTHER FUNDS	33,542	110,109
TRANSFER TO OPERATING	0	33,427
<b>TOTAL DESIGNATED FUND EXPENSES</b>	<b>87,532</b>	<b>187,946</b>
<b>Designated Funds Ending Balance:</b>	<b>113,665</b>	<b>52,641</b>

**SUMMARY OF BENEVOLENCE GIVING**

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
<b>REGULAR BENEVOLENCE</b>		
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH	25,530	25,200
CROSSWAYS CAMPING MINISTRIES	4,290	4,150
CUB SCOUT PACK 480	1,000	3,000
THE NEIGHBOR'S PLACE	1,500	2,000
WOMENS COMMUNITY	1,500	0
ELCA SYNOD ASSEMBLY OFFERING	1,000	1,691
FREDERIC OZANAM TRANSITIONAL SHELTER	1,000	0
STABLE HANDS MINISTRY	1,000	0
COMMUNITY CENTER OF HOPE	500	0
MATT SEEGER- SEMINARY SUPPORT	500	0
PUSH BACK AGAINST DRUGS	500	0
THE OPEN DOOR - MARATHON COUNTY	500	0
FAITH IN ACTION	436	0
<b>NOISY OFFERINGS 2014</b>		
ZEERUST LUTHERAN CHURCH (Noisy Offerings)	400	1,225
ELCA LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF	250	240
WAUSAU WARMING CENTER	300	0
EAST CENTRAL SYNOD-QUILT SHIPPING COSTS	345	0
VBS	0	600
<b>SPECIAL DESIGNATED</b>		
WORLD HUNGER	4,884	5,447
FOOD PANTRY & SOCIAL MINISTRY PROJECTS	2,665	3,042
<b>TOTAL BENEVOLENCE GIVING</b>	<b>48,100</b>	<b>46,595</b>

## MEMBER STATISTICS - 2014

### History of Baptized and Confirmed Membership 1981-2014

Year	Baptized	Confirmed	Baptized Change	Confirmed Change
1981	351	213		
1982	446	269	+ 95	+ 56
1983	521	297	+ 75	+ 28
1984	588	332	+ 67	+ 35
1985	697	403	+109	+ 71
1986	767	451	+ 70	+ 48
1987	912	525	+145	+ 74
1988	1020	625	+108	+100
1989	1208	703	+188	+ 78
1990	1295	815	+ 87	+112
1991	1351	855	+ 56	+ 40
1992	1403	912	+ 52	+ 57
1993	1440	940	+ 37	+ 28
1994	1605	1013	+165	+ 73
1995	1724	1105	+119	+ 92
1996	1797	1178	+ 73	+ 73
1997	1974	1293	+177	+115
1998	2114	1430	+140	+137
1999	2144	1461	+ 30	+ 31
2000	2239	1534	+ 95	+ 73
2001	2288	1589	+ 49	+55
2002	2402	1651	+114	+62
2003	2504	1746	+102	+95
2004	2577	1833	+73	+87
2005	2616	1866	+39	+33
2006	2711	1894	+95	+28
2007	2766	1923	+55	+29
2008	2855	1984	+89	+61
2009	2939	2074	+84	+90
2010	3026	2112	+87	+38
2011	3127	2184	+101	+72
2012	3176	2205	+ 49	+21
2013	3185	2197	+9	-8
2014	3197	2215	+12	+18

Membership Age Grouping										
Age	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
0-5	228	255	266	275	294	273	265	241	214	192
6-10	212	222	209	213	219	221	227	246	253	252
11-15	201	197	213	217	221	228	238	232	225	228
16-20	198	216	212	211	211	211	201	212	223	228
21-25	165	172	166	183	189	182	199	206	223	208
26-30	162	174	179	193	215	183	178	176	181	194
31-35	168	193	194	202	207	211	210	227	223	227
36-40	184	204	210	217	204	199	210	212	207	212
41-45	200	206	202	195	206	222	226	222	227	203
46-50	210	203	224	228	223	228	212	222	218	220
51-55	197	202	201	214	223	215	224	229	233	230
56-60	148	169	169	166	178	188	199	206	212	221
61-65	82	88	110	125	143	145	163	169	161	178
66-70	37	44	55	54	71	75	88	106	124	139
71-75	44	41	49	46	46	38	40	52	59	70
76-80	18	24	27	34	41	47	46	43	43	42
81-100	17	23	28	22	35	30	34	38	42	46

Note: These numbers are approximate as some birth dates have not been reported.



**2014 PASTORAL ACTS**  
New Members & Attendance Breakdown

<b>Pastoral Acts - 2014</b>	
Baptisms	32
(Adult)	2
Weddings	10
Funerals	15
First Communion	38
Confirmations	
Youth	34
Adult	0

<b>New Members Received 2014</b>	
February 23	15
May 18	8
October 12	30
Joined via Confirmation	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>53</b>

<b>Average Weekly Worship Attendance</b>	
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(Between 1981 and 2014)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Avg. Att.</u>	<u>Change</u>
1981	165	0
1982	182	+ 17
1983	196	+ 14
1984	214	+ 18
1985	263	+ 49
1986	244	- 19
1987	292	+ 48
1988	303	+ 11
1989	311	+ 8
1990	347	+ 36
1991	338	- 9
1992	345	+ 7
1993	330	- 15
1994	357	+ 27
1995	389	+ 32
1996	420	+ 31
1997	482	+ 62
1998	503	+ 21
1999	523	+ 20
2000	542	+ 19
2001	543	+ 1
2002	559	+16
2003	587	+ 28
2004	552	-35
2005	558	+6
2006	508	-50
2007	593	+85
2008	603	+6
2009	548	-55
2010	525	-23
2011	593	+68
2012	565	-28
2013	550	-15
2014	545	-5

<b>Service Break-down - 2014</b>	
<i>Average Attendance</i>	
12:15	45
6:15	69
8:00	197
10:30	241

<b>Special Worship Services - 2014</b>	
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Ash Wednesday (12:15)	109
Ash Wednesday (6:15)	291
Midweek Lenten Worship (12:15) (avg.)	76
Midweek Lenten Worship (6:15) (avg.)	189
Maundy Thursday (12:15)	63
Maundy Thursday (6:15)	104
Good Friday (12:15)	312
Good Friday (6:15)	160
Easter Sunday (6:00)	318
Easter Sunday (8:00)	471
Easter Sunday (9:30)	502
Easter Sunday (11:00)	284
Thanksgiving Eve (6:15)	50
Christmas Eve (4:00)	401
Christmas Eve (6:00)	541
Christmas Eve (8:00)	332
Christmas Eve (10:00)	124
Christmas Day (10:00am)	129



## Lead Pastor

Pastor Craig Swenson

The call of a parish pastor centers around “word and sacrament” ministry. Through the proclamation of the word and in the administration of the sacraments of water, bread and wine, something mysterious and wondrous takes place that is quite beyond our understanding. As we gather regularly at font and table we open ourselves to allow God’s divine love for us to define and shape us into images of God’s grace. Through the Holy Scriptures and simple elements, God is at work to bring about new and redeemed lives and joins us in a common mission as kingdom workers on God’s behalf. That is both humbling and exciting! It is from this perspective that I take delight in serving as pastor among you. Whether in times of great joy or even at times of great sorrow, my role is to help highlight where we believe God is at work and to help clarify the goodness of God at all times in life.

Church Innovations is an organization that is devoted to renewing the church’s focus on God’s mission in the world. Church Future Finder is an on-line resource through Church Innovations that helps with congregational discovery. The following is from that resource:

“In a world ever increasing in complexity, our churches struggle to create and nurture Christian community in their own communities. Exploring where God is leading our local churches may give rise to questions like...”

- Who are our neighbors and how well do we know them?
- Where does our church meet the community that surrounds us?
- What is our reason for being?
- How do we look to the future without neglecting our past?
- Where do we find hope for the future? What is God’s preferred and promised future for us?

Lately, I have been pondering these same questions for us as a congregation. How well do we know our neighbors? Are we concerned about being relevant in our context? Are we being good stewards of what is entrusted to us for the sake of doing our part in fulfilling our baptismal identity to “trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for the world God made and to work for justice and peace?” What does the future look like and what might be the “preferred” path to live into what God promises for us? Who determines what that preference is?

This year, I will be looking for opportunities to engage you in conversation about ideas to address some of these questions. This is Christ’s church and we live in hope of God’s promise to equip us and use us to deepen and expand the kingdom. I hope you will eagerly join me in responding to the challenges God is placing before us and equipping us to be relevant and responsive to live into God’s preferred future through Saint Andrew.

Blessed to serve among you,

*Pastor Craig Swenson*

## Associate Pastor

Pastor Jenn Collins

One of the joys of this year has been reshaping and producing new confirmation curriculum in conversation with staff and volunteers who are connected to the confirmation ministry. This year, 61 students and eight confirmation mentors meet weekly on Wednesdays to think about scripture, theology, and life.

Recently our confirmation students took on the topic of stewardship. From glancing around the room, it seemed as though stewardship was a word they were uncertain how to define, but when asked to take a guess at its meaning, one student offered that stewardship “was serving God and serving others.” She knew it had to do with taking care or tending to God and to those around her.

The primary activity of the night asked the students to make a map of their schedules to consider how they spend their time. School and sleep seemed to take the two largest blocks, followed by practice and games and concerts, followed by time for homework, time with friends, family etc... And time at church: confirmation and worship only seemed to take up a little bit of time - about 2.25 hours weekly.

One of the questions they were asked was, “What does your schedule say about the things that you value?” It was eye opening to see that the time of our middle school students is so stretched. The truth of the matter is, I think most of us feel that way as well. Our time is stretched. We are busy, busy people. And we don’t always have the time to come to church or participate in life together here. But in light of our calls in baptism, that could actually be good news.

At the end of Matthew, Jesus sends his disciples out with a mission: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19). Jesus didn’t tell them to stay there on the hillside – nor did he instruct them to only take care of the people on the inside. Jesus sent them out – to the world. He sent them to serve in his name in all contexts, in all nations, at all times.

So, 61 of our students and eight adults, along with the rest of us, are weekly sent out as preachers, teachers, evangelists, leaders, and friends into the mission field of our schools, our teams, our families, our work places and our lives. Together we are Christians – followers of Christ – who through baptism are a part of this rhythm of coming to Saint Andrew to be nourished, comforted, encouraged, and challenged, and sent out to minister in the Wausau community and the world.

With great gratitude I have the chance to watch the countless people who come weekly to worship, to quilt, to study, to make meals for the community, to tend to the property, to witness through singing, to learn, to grow, to serve on ministries... and the list goes on and on. But, perhaps with even more gratitude – I think of the impact we make as we are sent out filled with the Holy Spirit to minister in our daily lives through the relationships that we already have established in the wider community.

What a gift it is to serve among you as pastor, alongside of the staff, council and ministry leaders, and together with Pastor Craig. What a gift to watch this rhythm of gathering and sending take place, without fail, week after week.

*Pastor Jenn Collins*

## Visitation Pastor

Pastor Jeff Martinson

Dear friends in Christ, it has been a blessed and good year to be the visitation pastor at Saint Andrew. I feel I have gotten to know members more and more; those who are home-bound, in nursing homes, assisted living facilities and other places, and have grown to love them, as well. As I hear their common amazing stories of life and faith, am able to offer time for listening, praying and sharing Holy Communion- I am richly blessed. I hope those I visit are blessed as well. I feel the visitation ministry gives these members a connection to the church in a real and personal way. I also experience this call as a ministry to help, in certain times and cases, re-connect members with their faith life and church. This happens mostly at hospitals, as I call on the sick and their families. It helps me appreciate this congregation and its leadership for supporting the position of visitation pastor.

There have been numerous members and families I have had the privilege to be with in this past year. Allow me to share just a couple of these significant experiences.

Steve, his mother Elaine, and all their family was a profound and powerful experience. Steve's life was a miracle, having survived a catastrophic motorcycle accident some twenty years earlier, and coming through incredible odds in the hospital and rehab to live through traumatic injury. Steve was a remarkable artist, though after the accident his life was changed; he was limited, but with family help and love, lived independently as he was able, and truly happy. Steve, Elaine and family were a tremendous inspiration, as they cared for each other in Steve's last days. I was called in as the pastor, and certainly offered my presence and support. Although I kept in communication with Pastor Craig and Pastor Jenn, who would visit as they were able (because of other parish duties and commitments and time), I was able to be a pastoral presence. I affirmed the family's care and love for Steve; at his bedside they were constant in reading psalms and praying the Lord's Prayer and sharing feelings. It was a holy moment when Steve died, as I was with them. I cried and laughed with the family at that time, at the funeral, and then later in the year at the commendation at the cemetery.

For the last two years, I have been visiting Erv monthly at his home. He called when I first started work, and asked for a home visit with Holy Communion, as age, health concerns, and driving became more challenging. I would look forward to the monthly visit with Erv, as I do for each visit I make. We would catch up on the church, the farm work that he doesn't have to do any more, family, (how he's doing being alone and with his grief), doctor visits, rheumatoid arthritis, the weather, of course, and certainly the Packers. When I heard Erv died, my initial response was sorrow. I first thought how much I will miss these visits, but then I was thankful to have a part in this ministry; and I was thankful that a week and a half before he died we shared the feast of victory of our Lord in his home (always with his wife's picture in the background). My grief gave way to gratitude. I remembered the last Bible reading we shared from the church bulletin was from Philippians 3, including verse 14: "I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus". Thanks be to God.

Again, thank you congregation, council, and staff for allowing me to do ministry that I find genuine meaning and calling in. Please feel free to call either pastor, the church office or myself if you or someone you know might appreciate a home (nursing home, etc.) visit.

*Pastor Jeff Martinson*

## President

“The ministry of Saint Andrew Lutheran Church is open to all who wish to express their faith in God through Jesus Christ by *Worship, Learning, Witness and Service*.” All the volunteer opportunities could be part of these four words. There are so many opportunities to volunteer for long-term and one-time needs.

Saint Andrew is a growing congregation for all ages. We are fortunate to have the pastors and staff who serve us so willingly. But, we all need to be able to help with the many projects as they arise. Help is always needed for the grounds outside as well as the upkeep of the building inside. The pull-tag board has been very successful when necessary items are needed –such as batteries and church school supplies. If each person would volunteer for one thing this year—just think how many would be involved and become aware of the needs at Saint Andrew. And, you may become acquainted with other members as you help out.

In June we said goodbye to Matt Seegert as he began his studies at Wartburg Seminary to become a minister. Craig Gauerke was hired in August to become the Coordinator of Youth and Family Education. He is busy with youth activities, especially fund-raising for the National Youth Gathering in Detroit in July. Our senior high youth are all encouraged to attend. This year Al Freiberg has been involved with music in Wausau for 50 years while he has been the Coordinator of Music for Saint Andrew for 20 years. The Winter Rose cantata was presented in December in recognition of these accomplishments. We all appreciate hearing the chancel choir, bell choir and children’s choir that he directs.

The 2014 budget was not met and we now have a deficit. And, the pledges for 2015 do not fulfill the 2015 budget needs. The council is confident the congregation will meet the challenge to make our new budget. As our facilities and equipment age, expenses are involved with repairs and purchases that will need to be made.

I am thankful for the opportunity to serve on the council and as the president. It is a great experience to learn about the workings of the church. Saint Andrew is a wonderful place to be and we are all so fortunate to be a part of it.

*Mary Wittich*  
*Council President*

## Vice President

*He replied, "Because your faith is much too small. What I'm about to tell you is true. If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, it is enough. You can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there.' And it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you." (Matthew 17:20)*

We are blessed to have an army of volunteers at Saint Andrew to carry out God's mission. We frequently hear the saying "many hands make light work". This is certainly true in this congregation. The giving of time and talents for the sake of the church is inspiring.

As the church grows, so grows the need for these talents to serve each other and the community. Please consider how you might share your talents for the mission of Saint Andrew.

This coming year will challenge us all. The council has proposed a budget that challenges the congregation to be the best stewards of the mission of Saint Andrew Lutheran Church. With prayer and faith, God's will will be done.

I am thankful for all the help and support I have received from the pastors, staff, council and members of the congregation. The experience has been very fulfilling.

*Mike Williams*  
*Council Vice President*

## Parish Administrator

The parish staff at Saint Andrew continues to effectively and eagerly serve daily in Christ's church in witness and support to the congregation of Saint Andrew Lutheran Church.

*"God's Work – Our Hands" .... "Always Being Made New" .... "Our Faith In Action" – Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.... 1 Peter 4:10*

With gratitude, the Parish staff thanks the congregation of Saint Andrew for all of the volunteer hours generously shared to assist with meals & activities...choir offerings & serving in worship...office projects & mailings...phone calling & home visits...serving on council and ministry groups... VBS coordinators... Sunday School teachers & Confirmation mentors... baking communion bread & desserts...painting, repairs & building updates...weeding, snow removal, roadside/spring/fall cleanup... landscaping & outside decorating for Christmas with beautiful greenery and handmade luminaries and donating flowers.

Additionally, gratitude is extended for all the generous gifts given in support of the food pantry, noisy offerings, purchasing pull tag items for fundraising meals prepared by the youth, blood donated and hats & mittens given to be shared with our local schools!

In addition to the benevolence gifts shared to the larger churchwide community of the ELCA and in support of World Hunger and Lutheran World Relief, the following community groups also received benevolence gifts from the congregation of Saint Andrew:

Crossways Camping Ministries  
SALC Scout Troop  
Fill A Backpack  
Stable Hands Ministry  
Transitional Shelter  
The Neighbor's Place  
The Women's Community  
Faith In Action  
Push Back Against Drugs  
Open Door Ministry  
Community Center of Hope  
The Warming Shelter

*We are being called by God. Our everyday experiences are unfolding to reveal God's plan for the future. What does it mean to be called? It means living authentically and wholly awake, looking for how even the most ordinary of tasks can give glory to God. Being called means listening and being ready to say yes to what God intends for us, trusting that God equips us. All you need to do is pay attention! Are you listening for God's call? And if so, what will it mean to your life if you answer, "Here I am, Lord!"*

Blessed to serve,  
Shelby Gjertson  
Parish Administrator

## Christian Education/Youth Ministry

**Chairperson:** Sara Goetsch

**Council Liaison:** Bill Best and DeDe Gnatz

**Members:** Craig Gauerke, Heidi Wiesman, Sandra Rusch, Katie Gilles and Sheila Hagen

Over the past few months at Saint Andrew I have been honored to serve as Coordinator of Youth and Family. The more I see, read and hear, I know this ministry was, and is still, inspired by the Holy Spirit. I see a reawakening to the youth ministry at Saint Andrew. Numbers may have fallen and the future unknown, but I am blessed to be the Coordinator of Youth and Family Education for Saint Andrew Lutheran Church. With the help of the staff, volunteers, and the Christian Education team we will chart a new course with the continued guidance from Christ. Listed below are the activities and programs which have been done in 2014 and the vision for 2015.

### Activities 2014:

- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
- Assisted with Lenten Soup Suppers
- Easter Breakfast
- Vacation Bible School – Crossways
- Confirmation Organization
- Sunday School Organization
- Lead Sunday School Confirmation Class
- E.L.C.A National Youth Gathering 2015 Planning and Coordinating
- Lead Youth Gathering Fundraising – Spaghetti Night – Basket Sale
- Christmas Program – Coordinate – Technical Support - A Noisy Night

### NEW Programs 2014:

- Echo: The Story (6th Grade Sunday School)
- Confirmation Curriculum – Pastor Jenn

### Vision for 2015:

- 3rd – 5th Grade Retreat – Waypost
- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
- Lent Confirmation Coordinating
- Interaction between adults and youth ministry frame work project
- Middle School/ High School summer interaction project
- Confirmation Camp in June - Waypost
- E.L.C.A National Youth Gathering in July
- Vacation Bible School Coordinating in July

*Craig Gauerke*

*Coordinator of Youth and Family Education*



## Communications/Development Ministry

**Council Liaison:** Brandon Murphy

**Member:** Eric Hane

The Ministry focuses on creating communication strategies for ministry activities and assists in the development of conventions and standards for published materials as requested by council and ministry groups – i.e.: Safe Place Policy, Endowment Bylaws, etc. Ministry members are available to provide guidance and support to staff who maintain the website and coordinate the use of the email distribution of the Network newsletter. It is the intent of this ministry to look for growth opportunities through photo displays, screen shows and with internet/social media communication tools.

Recently, information was gathered from each ministry to define which area of focus within the Saint Andrew mission statement (Worship, Learning, Witness or Service) relates most strongly to the tasks that are done by the members of that ministry group. This information continues to be used to evaluate and assist in the development of the ministry and council structures for effective and productive use of SALC member's time & talents.

In 2014, event and activity reminders and announcement emails were generated on an as needed basis through the internet for those members who have chosen to be connected to the church through this channel of communication. The use of Youtube videos for pastoral messages was implemented for the first time and an increased usage of the Saint Andrew Facebook page has expanded communication. Please call or email the church to confirm you are currently connected in this way.

Goals and visions for 2015:

- Encourage and Welcome new volunteers to assist on this ministry group, take pictures and prepare updates for the website, Network and Narthex digital message display.
- Continue to enhance the development and communication of SALC policies throughout the ministries, council and congregation.
- Assist other ministries with specific communications needs.

Respectfully submitted,

*Shelby Gjertson*

*Parish Administrator*

## Fellowship Ministry

**Chairperson:** Amy Frolik

**Council Liaison:** Daniel Malm

**Members:** Bonita Alafouz (Secretary), Ann McDonald, Dave Mueller, Jamie Mangels, Vicki Mrotek, Todd Punke

**Associate Member:** Karen Swenson (Cookie Baking Coordinator)

The Fellowship Ministry supports the Mission of Saint Andrew by planning and coordinating activities and events for all members to provide opportunities for participation in the community life of the church. We host weekly Sunday fellowship, the annual Church Picnic, Pretzel Sunday and Palm Sunday; support the OWLS' monthly group activities; and plan and organize special family outings, community service projects and seasonal events.

This year the ministry has grown with an additional member and has continued weekly and annual events. A few new ones were added as well, such as serving cupcakes at 10 am in honor of Pentecost Sunday, honoring new members, the last day of Sunday School, Sundae Sunday and a Potluck Bingo event.

**Weekly:** Sunday Fellowship - Coordinate and schedule volunteers for coffee service and cookie baking.

**Monthly:** OWLS (Older Wiser Lutherans est. 2010) is a social group that meet for activities and events including potlucks, speakers and field trips organized by the members.

**Support:** SALC Dart Ball Team - assisted with dues.

### 2014 Special Events:

♦ Variety Show (2 <sup>nd</sup> year)	February 25
♦ Pretzel Sunday (1st Sunday in Lent)	March 9
♦ Assisted in the Soup Kitchen	March 26
♦ Hot Cross Buns (Palm Sunday)	April 13
♦ Sundae Sunday	June 15
♦ SALC Golf Outing	July 19
♦ Church Picnic (Rally Sunday)	September 7
♦ Donut Sunday	November 2
♦ Gingerbread Village/Cookie Exchange	December 7

Following each Sunday morning worship service, we offer coffee, juice, milk and fresh baked cookies for fellowship, and are responsible for coordinating volunteers to host the early and late fellowship and to bake cookies. Between services is a popular fellowship time for members. We consistently had large amounts of people gathering during this time.

The annual church picnic is one of the major events for which we are responsible. We coordinated it with Rally Sunday in September to help increase awareness and attendance. We brought back the bouncy house and yard games that were enjoyed by the kids. There was also music provided by two youth members.

This year we tried a new event, the Variety Show and Decadent Desserts Buffet held in February. The Fellowship hall was decked out in Mardi Gras decorations. There were 14 performers, 24 desserts and a great turn out in the audience. We had the December gingerbread event which attracted over 60 people and the village was enjoyed at Mount View Nursing Home.

In 2015, the Fellowship Ministry looks forward to continuing our weekly and annual events as well as trying new ones. Our goals are to recruit more volunteers to help with our activities and to serve on the ministry, to provide activities and events that are enjoyed, and to increase fellowship in our congregation.

**We appreciate all the wonderful volunteers involved in 2014 that make fellowship activities possible and so enjoyable.**

Respectfully submitted,  
*Amy Frolik*

*Chairperson*

## **Finance Ministry**

**Chairperson:** Bill Radloff

**Council Liaison:** Mike Williams

**Treasurer:** Kerry Fehrman

**Members:** Mike Williams, Betty Dotseth, Mike Howlett, Kerry Fehrman, Sheldon Geiger, Tom Weiland, Jerry Laine, Duane Meyer, Amber Schuck and Bill Radloff

Late last year, with council's approval, we formed an Endowment Committee to design and put in place an Endowment Fund for Saint Andrew. The mission and purpose of this fund is to provide a process that allows people to give a gift or legacy as a means of extending the mission of Christ's church. This committee is made up of Josh Wiesman, Julie Brekke, Todd Punke, Marv Meier, Pam Schulz, and the Chair is Ray Skare. This group designed forms and put in place an advertising program for promoting this new fund. The Bylaws approved by the Church Council stated that nothing could be paid out until the balance of the fund reached \$25,000. I am happy to report that we now have close to \$30,000, which means we can use up to 10% of the fund this year. Applications for disbursements of this fund are being accepted and the Church Council will decide, based on the recommendation of the Endowment Committee, where and how much of the money will be spent this next year.

Early this year we established an Audit Committee of Steve Lammers, Jason Rickstad, Jessica Tipple, and Melissa Beese as Chair. It was decided to have this group audit our books for 2013. This group came up with 20+ recommendations and suggested a special group be formed to address these concerns. This group consists of three people; Jerry Laine, Don Skare and myself. We have been hard at work and this effort will continue into 2015.

This summer we decided to make available to our congregation, a Stewardship presentation of the month beginning in September. The presentations were: Wills – Why Have One, SALC Endowment Program and How It Works, Nursing Homes and Long term Care, Funeral Homes and Final Expenses in December. The attendance ranged from 9 to 24 people and feedback was very positive.

Starting on the first Sunday night in January and continuing each Sunday night for nine consecutive weeks we will be sponsoring a course on Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University. This course gives direction to work your way out of debt, accumulate wealth and then give some away. As of this writing, there are 18 people participating in the course.

The budgeting process has been challenging as we look back on the deficit from 2014 and prepare a meaningful and doable budget for 2015. I would like to thank Kerry Fehrman for all her extra effort and leadership in this area.

For the last two years, our income has not been large enough to cover our expenses. Therefore, our major goal for 2015 is to develop a more effective stewardship program in hopes of increasing the participation in the Ministries of Saint Andrew, and raising the level of giving to meet the day to day operations of Saint Andrew.

I would like to thank all the members of our Finance/Stewardship, Endowment, Audit and Budget Committees for all their dedicated effort during 2014.

Yours in Christ,  
*Bill Radloff*  
*Chairperson*

## Member Outreach Ministry

**Council Liaison:** Mary Wittich

**Members:** Lucy Lahr, Billie Schmidt, Debbie Bradshaw and Annette Green

The goal of the Member Outreach Ministry is to help visitors and members of the church feel welcome, connected and cared for. As members of a community of faith, Saint Andrew welcomes and acknowledges each other in times of need and blessings. This Ministry does not currently meet on a monthly basis but members continue to execute the following activities:

**Greeter Program** - Many church members volunteer to greet members and visitors as they arrive to attend Sunday morning worship services.

**Care Note Program** – There is a materials rack in the Narthex that offers information brochures, as well as, reading booklets for all ages to offer comfort and reflection with regard to personal situations.

**Phone calling and Card Program** - An Outreach Ministry member makes phone calls and sends cards to members that are made by church school children, sharing with them that they are thought of and that the church is praying for them. This member also does the calling when food is needed for funerals and other activities and events.

**Quilt Groups** - Member Outreach has two quilting groups. The second Tuesday of the month quilts are made for the community (local hospitals, Women's Shelter, Salvation Army, Hospice House, local fire departments) and the third Tuesday of the month quilts are made for distribution by Lutheran World Relief (LWR).

**Prayer Shawl Program** - Prayer shawls are knitted and crocheted by members for anyone that needs a shawl to provide comfort and prayers.

**Visitation Program** - Under the leadership of the visitation pastor, a program is available for members of the congregation to be trained to assist with bringing communion, conversation and comfort to those who are homebound.

Member Outreach also assists with registration and welcoming new members for **New Member Orientation** and **Name Tag Sundays** in February, May and October.

### **Goal for 2015:**

Member Outreach is looking for new members and welcomes suggestions for outreach ideas to grow this ministry.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Shelby Gjertson, Parish Administrator*

## Memorial Gift Ministry

**Chairperson:** Marilyn Olson

**Council Liaison:** Mary Wittich

**Staff Advisors:** Pastor Craig Swenson, Pastor Jenn Collins and Parish Administrator, Shelby Gjertson

**Ministry Members:** Mavis Bloom Annette Green, Eric Jacobson, Dick Jarvis, Roger King, Mary Keiegel, Donna Peth, Mary Weiland and Julie Weller

The Memorial Gift Ministry develops the Memorial Gift Guidelines, maintains a list of needed “gifts” and disburses monetary gifts in a timely manner. If the gift is designated to a certain area, the ministry ensures it is used for that purpose. If the gift is undesignated, the ministry will discuss what the current needs are for Saint Andrew at the time.

- The following memorials totaling \$2,817.24 were used to purchase the new purple paraments for the altar: DeHaan, Downing, Halvorsen, Harder, Huggenvik, Koenig, Kolbeck, Kort, Kregal, Millard, Moyer, Mueller, Quiett, Thomson, Zum and Zurn. These paraments will be used during the Lenten season.
- New books and materials were purchased for the library totaling \$331.30 thanks to the following memorials: Flory and Kregel.
- A memorial of \$3,500 was received in her memory to be used for updating items in the Saint Andrew kitchen—custom shelving, stainless electric skillets, fry pans, booster chairs, hot pads, utility carts, silverware, first aid cabinet, pitchers, cutlery, etc.
- A memorial was received in memory of Chris Millard for \$5,000 to purchase handbells.

Saint Andrew thanks all of these families for their generosity.

The Property Ministry continues to receive 10% of all undesignated funds to be used for resurfacing the parking lot. This is a 6-year commitment which began in June of 2009 and will continue through June of 2015. At this time \$1,031.70 has been designated for this purpose.

Future wish list items include new blue paraments to be used during advent and a handicap accessible door opener to be installed at an entrance for ease of entry into the Saint Andrew building.

If you are interested in sharing a memorial gift to Saint Andrew, please contact a pastor or the Parish Administrator.

Respectfully submitted,

*Marilyn Olson*

*Chairperson*

## Personnel Ministry

**Chairperson:** Don Skare

**Council Liaison:** Ed Wodalski

**Staff Advisor:** Pastor Craig

**Members:** Phil Bickley, Julie Brekke, Lynne Holt, Laura Johnson, Wayne Johnson, Pam Kyhos, Penny Nowak and Rick Radloff

What is the purpose of the Ministry?

Duties and responsibilities of the Personnel Ministry

- Develop appropriate personnel policies and procedures
- Re-assess the role and format of the performance review process
- Review all Ministry and staff job descriptions for accuracy
- Explore the use of lay professionals to fill identified voids
- Review Ministry Guidelines to comply with the mission of Saint Andrew
- Identify requirements for staff positions
- Identify personnel issues that may require review
- Review and update personnel policies

What goals did the Ministry achieve over the past year?

- Conducted semi-annual salary/benefit reviews with all Saint Andrew non-clergy staff
- Revised and updated the Saint Andrew Non-Clergy Employee Handbook
- Determined and recommended 2015 salaries for all Saint Andrew staff, clergy and non-clergy
- Met with employees to discuss concerns & review self-assessments
- Updated contract for Visitation Pastor
- Revised job description of Christian Education Coordinator to Coordinator of Youth and Family Education
- Recruited candidates for Coordinator of Youth and Family Education
- Worked collaboratively with the Christian Education Ministry and Pastoral Staff to interview and hire the new Coordinator of Youth and Family Education, Craig Gauerke

What are the goals and visions for next year?

- Finalize the Saint Andrew Non-Clergy Personnel Policies Handbook
- Twice during 2015, individually meet with Saint Andrew non-clergy staff to provide support, answer questions, and address concerns
- Review benefit plan offerings for 2016 before a commitment for the next year
- Review job descriptions for accuracy
- Review policies for personnel not included in Non-Clergy Employee Handbook

Respectfully submitted,

*Julie Brekke*

*Chairperson*

## Property Ministry

**Chairperson:** Keith Rusch

**Council Liaison:** Keith Rusch

**Members:** Shelby Gjertson, Parish Administrator, Dave Paisar, Al Brace, Mike Zenner, Randy Trollop

The Property Ministry oversees the care, maintenance, repair, protection and replacement of all equipment and furnishings of the church building. This group also oversees the care, maintenance, repair, protection and landscaping of the church grounds. They assist with the development and updating of job descriptions & outlines that relate to the ministry's work and responsibilities. The ministry is supported by the Parish Administrator who coordinates the use of all property with the other SALC ministry groups and members as well as with groups and organizations outside of the church.

Ministry projects and activities completed in 2014:

- Held the spring clean-up in conjunction with roadside clean-up.
- Relocated and fixed issues with the sign modem.
- Painting of shed fascia, curbs and exterior cross on the sanctuary east end.
- Updated the Christian Education office.
- Replaced landscaping bushes/shrubs.
- Replaced rooftop unit belts and relays.
- Down-sized and replaced broken water heater.
- Worked through remaining issues with risk assessment from Church Mutual, including adding protection cage around air conditioning units.
- Established contract with HVAC contractor to do annual assessment and adjustments to HVAC system for optimal and most efficient operation throughout facility.
- Completed fall clean-up.
- Addressed numerous ongoing property requirements such as replacement of stained ceiling tile, emergency light repairs, light bulb replacement, etc.

Future goals and visions:

- Continued service of the facility and grounds.
- Improve handicapped accessibility by adding a power door.
- Complete asphalt maintenance project on west lot.
- Replace deteriorating sidewalk on west entrance.
- Long-term goals: east parking lot asphalt replacement/repair needs, potential carpet and siding replacement.

The Property Committee would like to thank all who participated in the spring, fall and roadside clean-up projects. Your great attitudes make these events enjoyable and successful.

Respectfully submitted,

*Keith Rusch*

*Chairperson*



## Social Ministry

**Chairperson:** Adam Wurz

**Council Liaison:** Russell Van Skike

**Members:** Maureen Anklam, Marge Bohlman, Ron Mathsen, Ruth Poutanen, Billie Schmidt, Alice Van Skike, Jeanne Willems and Kathy Wurz

**Ministry Mission:** Programs and activities have been developed and expanded by Social Ministry to minister to the needs of the members of Saint Andrew and to the needs of our neighbors beyond the doors of Saint Andrew.

**Goals achieved by the Ministry over the past year:** One of our goals was to improve participation from the congregation and that goal was accomplished with the support of many volunteers and the generosity of the parishioners of Saint Andrew! Over this past year we offered a wide variety of opportunities for participation, including:

- Super Bowl Snack Sale – Many prepared and/or purchased snacks to support our annual sale.
- Lenten Soup and Sandwich – Many volunteers, both adults and youth, helped to make these dinners a huge success. We are thankful to the many who supported us by partaking in the meals and purchasing the soup, which supports our activities throughout the year!
- Tuesday morning Quilters – Donated 76 quilts to Lutheran World Relief.
- Tuesday morning Quilters – Donated quilts to Hospice and The Women's Community Shelter.
- Our Ministry and Congregation – Purchased school supplies from the tag board. These supplies were used to fill 52 back packs that were sewn by congregation volunteers, and then shipped along with the quilts.
- Fair Trade Coffee and Chocolate Sales – Our congregation continues to support these monthly sales to benefit small farmers worldwide.
- Cradle of Love Baskets – Located by entry doors, the cradles encourage weekly food donations for our pantry.
- Emergency Food Baskets – We prepared 38 food baskets for families in the greater Wausau area.
- Holiday Food Baskets – We prepared 40 food baskets for Easter and Christmas.
- Thanksgiving Dinner – New this year-the dinner was a great success! Eighty meals were prepared and served by many new volunteers.
- Empty Bowls Fundraiser – We prepared and donated 10 gallons of soup for the Neighbors' Place annual fundraiser.
- Community Dinner – We plan, prepare and serve 6 Sunday community meals at 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every odd month. We average 120 plates per meal.
- Community Donations – This past year we made donations to the Saint Andrew Youth Group and Channel 7 "Share the Holidays". Additional donations are still under consideration.
- Society of Saint Andrew – We opened a conversation with the Society of Saint Andrew about facilitating a potato drop, which is the distribution of a truck load of potatoes that are not of use by food manufacturers. If this happens in the fall of 2015, we will need a large group of volunteers.

### Goals and Vision for 2014:

- Continue to meet the needs of the congregation through our mission – Matthew 25:35
- Continue to find ways we can partner with other faith based non-profit organizations within our community.
- Continue to find ways to improve participation and communication with those who wish to participate in our many activities.
- Better communicate the services we can provide to families who are in need of our help.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Adam Wurz*  
*Chairperson*

## Worship Ministry

**Chairperson:** Cheryl Allen

**Council Liaison:** Lenette Hoover

**Members:** Al Freiberg (Coordinator of Music), Barb Breese, Pauline Hartman, Christy Keele (partial year)

The Worship Ministry is the umbrella ministry for the entire worship life at the church of Saint Andrew.

The members oversee:

- Altar Guild
- Communion Servers and Plate Holders
- Lay Readers
- Music, including
  - Accompanists
  - Bell Choir
  - Chancel Choir
  - Children's Choir
  - Special services and musicians
- Nursery – 0-4 years
- Ushers

Accomplishments in 2014 include:

- Providing the on-going support of worship services held four times each week, with special services at Easter and Christmas. It wouldn't be possible without all our volunteer ushers, lay readers, communion servers, bread bakers, altar guild, nursery staffers, choir members, and the list goes on. Thank You!
- Presenting a Cantata in December, The Winter Rose, directed by Al Freiberg, with 85 voices, the bell choir, and a 31 member orchestra.
- Preparing regular Children's Choir offerings throughout the year. The participation has allowed the choir to be a reliable worship option. The Worship Ministry would like to thank the parents for bringing their children to rehearsals.
- Creating activity bags for children to take into church. The bags contain notebooks and coloring pages, along with crayons or colored pencils, for kids to work on during the service. Thank you to Lenette Hoover for sewing the bags. Also thank you to the volunteers who signed up through Time and Talent to maintain the bags.

In 2015, we will continue exploring how to best meet the needs of young families in worship, as well as providing meaningful volunteer opportunities for all worship participants. We are also recognizing and celebrating Al Freiberg's 50th Anniversary as a choir director in the Wausau area. Congratulations, Al!

The children's worship service trial run was popular last year, but there weren't enough volunteers to keep it going. Worship hasn't given up on 'Children's Church', but it's drawn back to consider the requirements for it for the future.

The Altar Guild Chair is still open as this is written. Shelby Gjertson is the acting head of the Altar Guild, but we need a church member willing to work with the Altar Guild members to provide full support. Our overall goal, as always, is to support the mission statement: *To express our love of Jesus Christ through faithful support of, and active participation in, the mission and ministry of Saint Andrew Lutheran Church.*

Respectfully submitted,

*Cheryl Allen*

*Chairperson*

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

We are a church that believes Jesus is God's "Yes" to us. Our lives can be a "Yes" to others. As members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), we believe that we are freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. With our hands, we do God's work of restoring and reconciling communities in Jesus Christ's name throughout the world.

God calls us to serve one another — to be a "Yes" to others — using whatever gifts each of us has received. Our nearly 10,000 congregations, 65 synods and churchwide ministries respond to this call and engage in mission in their neighborhoods, communities and around the world. The portion of your congregation's financial gifts that you share with synods and churchwide ministries, your Mission Support offering, makes this possible.

Together we are developing new leaders, building and renewing congregations, supporting churches around the world, working for justice and peace, nurturing youth and young adults and cultivating faith communities. We are all missionaries: sharing the gospel through service to others, building community and providing life-sustaining ministries.

God is calling us into the world to do God's work in Christ's name. It is your faithful support that makes this work possible. Your Mission Support offering makes it possible for synods and churchwide ministries to keep ongoing commitments to ministry partners near and far and to respond where needs are greatest.

We are a church with a heart for mission. And we pledged at the 2013 Churchwide Assembly to deepen and expand our outreach in the next five years starting in 2014 through "Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA." We are a church that rolls up its sleeves and gets to work, and we have a lot of work to do in the years ahead to achieve the great goals that we have set out for ourselves. We will need everyone's support to maintain the existing ministries that are made possible through your Mission Support offering — and to support new endeavors.

God loves each of us and cares for us deeply. It is because of this love that we are set free to serve the world and love others. I am grateful for your generosity and the ways God is at work both in us and through us!

Faithfully,



Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



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## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CONGREGATION

### Why we give

Our financial generosity is an expression of our love for God and for our neighbor. A critical component of what we do together is the offering made by you and your congregation that is shared for synod and churchwide ministries. We call this Mission Support, which makes it possible for ELCA members from Alaska to the Caribbean to be responsive as one church to exciting new opportunities for ministry.

### Funding our mission

Mission Support is an important percentage of your weekly offering. Many congregations set a goal of 10 percent or greater for Mission Support through their synod and do additional giving beyond their congregation. In this way congregations are making a difference in their giving both in and through their church. Your congregation shares its Mission Support offering with the other two expressions of this church.

### Where your offering goes

Mission Support is the lifeblood of the work that God does through the ELCA.



## Altar Guild

**Interim Chairperson:** Shelby Gjertson, Parish Administrator

**Members:** Donna Peth, Joleen Meier, Ann McDonald, Joyce Schoepke, Sue McFaul, Jodi Gargulak, Mavis Bloom, Mary Wittich, Mary Weiland, Pam Levra, Stephanie Wage, Julie Weller, Sandra Fischer, Shelby Niskanen, Darlene Caillouette, Rebecca Sonnentag, Linda Peterson, Chris Welsh

**Council Liason:** Lenette Hoover

The ministry of the Altar Guild at Saint Andrew is a team effort. The Chairperson prepares the weekly schedules, prepares the agenda for team meetings, prepares meeting minutes and makes them available to team members, purchases wine, hosts and other needed supplies, updates a calendar for the parament seasonal color changes, coordinates with team leaders and the staff to execute the weekly and seasonal activities of the church year.

Team members prepare communion bread, set up/clean up communion & credence cloths after all four services and change the paraments on the altar according to the church calendar. Saint Andrew is blessed to have team members who have served from 5-22 years.

***Whether it is baking bread, preparing the altar, changing paraments, filling the candles with oil, laundering linens or decorating for festive worship services, the work is never a burden but is always a privilege!***

Thank you to the team members and bread makers for their dedicated time and service. Special thanks to Mary Weiland for laundering the linens weekly. Additional thanks to other individuals who serve as “extra” bread bakers for special and seasonal worship services!

Altar Guild members contribute to the life of the church in other ways. This includes serving, providing desserts and clean up for the Lenten Soup and Sandwich meals. Several members gather to decorate the sanctuary altar and chapel for Christmas and Easter and others strip the altar on Maundy Thursday. Thank you to Dave Mueller, Mike Williams and Tom Weidman who assisted with set up at the 6:00 am 2014 Easter Sunrise Service on top of Rib Mountain.

The Parish staff also provides support to the Altar group teams. Thanks to Sexton, Jared Gjertson for his assistance on Sunday mornings and special services with set up for baptisms, filling candles and resetting communion as needed. Thank you to Shannon Vujnovich for assisting with seasonal preparations and Joy Mitchell for assisting with the seasonal flower orders.

New purple paraments were purchased from undesignated memorial funds and will be used for the first time during the 2015 Lenten season.

Goals for 2015:

- The addition of 2-3 new teams – both men and women are invited and welcome to serve as team members or bread bakers
- Welcome a new chairperson or two individuals to co-chair

Respectfully submitted,  
*Shelby Gjertson*  
Interim Chairperson